

**283—27.4(261) Eligibility requirements.**

**27.4(1)** In order to be considered an eligible veterinarian under the program, the eligible applicant must:

- a.* Complete an application and sign a program agreement by the date(s) specified by the commission.
- b.* Complete a doctor of veterinary medicine degree, or the equivalent, at an eligible university.
- c.* Within one year of completing a doctor of veterinary medicine degree, or the equivalent, or signing a program agreement, whichever is most recent, an eligible applicant must have a permanent license to practice veterinary medicine under Iowa Code chapter 169 and engage in full-time practice as a veterinarian in a service commitment area or veterinary shortage area in Iowa.

Prior to engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine in a service commitment area or veterinary shortage area, the veterinarian must notify the commission of the service commitment area or veterinary shortage area in which the veterinarian will be engaged in veterinary practice, and the commission will verify the eligibility of the service commitment area or veterinary shortage area.

**27.4(2)** Eligible applicants not working in a veterinary shortage area. Prior to or upon engagement in full-time practice in a service commitment area, the veterinarian must contract with a service commitment area to provide a nonrefundable contribution for deposit in the rural veterinarian trust fund. The nonrefundable contribution must be received by the commission from a service commitment area prior to payment of any loan repayment awards.

**27.4(3)** Failure by the applicant to meet all eligibility requirements under this rule and in the program agreement will result in forfeiture of all remaining unpaid payments.

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